

Application No.: 09/743,479

Docket No.: 21854-00016-US

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION*Please amend the specification as follows:*

On page 2, please replace the paragraph from lines 24-31 with the following amended paragraph:

The polymer blend is preferably an olefine polymer with a polymer containing hydrophilic groups. The ratio of hydrophobic to hydrophilic polymer can be determined by simple trials. Preferably the polymer blend includes an ethylene/vinyl-~~alcohol~~ acetate copolymer ~~{EVA}~~ (EVA) as the polymer with high release rate and a linear low density polyethylene ~~{LLDPE}~~ (LLDPE) as the polymer with a low water release rate. A blend of these two polymers EVA/LLDPE within the range of 30:70 to 80:20 is usually effective. Preferred blends contain equal amounts of EVA and LLDPE or 70% EVA and 30% LLDPE.

On page 3, please replace the paragraph from lines 10-14 with the following amended paragraph:

The metabisulfite can be mixed with one of the polymer components-~~an~~ and then blended with the second polymer. This is not critical and the lower processing temperature is the key to selecting the steps in blending. With EVA/LDPE blends it is preferred to form a master batch of metabisulfite with EVA and then blend this with LDPE in the desired ratio to form the film.

On page 4, please replace the paragraph from lines 9-12 with the following amended paragraph:

Polymer blends of 30% Low density polyethylene-~~{LDPE}~~ (LDPE) with 70% of a copolymer of ethylene and vinyl-~~alcohol~~ {EVA} ~~{liner 1}~~ acetate (EVA) (liner 1) and 50% LDPE with 50% EVA, ~~{liner 2}~~ (liner 2) each containing 15% sodium metabisulfite, were formed into film and converted to liner bags for grape boxes.

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On page 9, please replace the paragraph from lines 18-19 with the following amended paragraph:

When the ~~baxes~~ boxes were opened the seeded berries were located and the number of adjacent infected berries were counted and the averages are shown in table 7.